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<b>Reference</b>	Mss Eur F126/58
<b>Title</b>	Fair copy of Pelly's diary of his journey from Kuwait to Riyadh and back
<b>Date(s)</b>	18 Feb 1865-27 Feb 1865 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (7 folios)
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#### About this record

The fair copy of the diary is not complete and only covers the entries for 18-21st, 24th and 26th-27th February.

The entries for each day give the distances travelled, how long each stage took, longitude & latitude co-ordinates for their destination each day, comments on the availability of water, descriptions of the landscapes, observations on people and tribes encountered on route and some rough estimations of the number of pilgrims that travel there from Busreh [Basra], Kowait [Kuwait], Lahsa and Damascus

See F126/57 for the complete journal containing more detailed descriptions for each day's entry.



MSS Eur F126/58

①

Date	From	To	Hours	General direction	Remarks.
1865. Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	Kuwait	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ beyond Fort Malak	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kuwait Lat: 29° 22' 56" Long: 47° 59' 51"	Went on horse 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. then gradually tended to S. E. for the Fort Malak, which is five hours' distance from Kuwait. There are some wells close to the Fort and a few temporary huts. General character of the country a boundless plain slightly undulating like long depressed waves. For the first hour thin grass, eaten by Locusts. Afterwards the plain sprinkled with low brush wood, which the camels browsed as we went along. of rain and strong wind from the Southward during the march. A small conical hill bearing S.W. and by S. from the halting place, its name Wurrah. A longer and more distant hill named Sebahiah bearing S. and by W. The conical hill is one hour and one half distant. We are to pass near the Sebahiah tomorrow. The halting ground is not marked by any hut or Fort. No water would be findable here in the hot weather.



②



(2)

Zolpy

From our halting place tonight the road to Tauly diverges. We are taking a medium course. Freijlan on the road to Riyadh lies to our left.

After three hours came on a depression with a hill bearing West (an hour). Name of hill Grame and the depression which leads East to the sea is known as the Khone or creek of Grame. There was a pool of bad rain water in it near where we passed the creek. After heavy rain water flows along it to the sea distant one day's journey. After eight hours encamped a hill named Achayph bearing West half an hour off and a hill named Delaa at Della hill in front of us. The Wafra lands lying half an hour East. The land South beyond the hill Delaa and Della are called Gung ground today like that of yesterday. Met some Bedouins of the Wahabee tribes. Adan ends at the station we are now at, the low hills bending round our point mark its inland boundary. The ground of Adan is identifiable by the Bedouin in that its strata lie in the direction of the low hills, say South East by North West.

m.  
20 Legait Wafra 8

L. 28-37-13





Date	Place	Remarks
Feb 28 28 1/2	Della 10 Muzra Sulphur Hills	<p>South After half an hour came to Hill Delaa ul Della. Saw a hill about two hours by West East called Delaa ul Shadaf. Outriged plain district which bends away North to South a point between Saghah and Sulphur Hill near Jabeir. The straits of Sling South follow the curve of the hills which mark the boundaries of the District. From West today rising and sloping very gently Eastward, the undulations are regular, South the general character shows that of with a general gradual rise on our right or Westward. Conical Hill shows East called Five separate irregular hills round our front, an hour half ahead called the Sulphur Hills, only two of them however have Sulphur. Our reckoning this evening by the North star gives us 24 Miles of Latitude gone over today, or I have probably made three Miles of Westing.</p>



② 3

After an hour over broken sandstone mounds came on a valley where we got a little good rain water, just enough to fill our seven skins. I turned off to some tents belonging to the tribe of my guide. The women of either tent brought out large round metal trays filled with Bedouin cheese and some dried dates, also some Bedouin butter in a bowl and lots of sour milk, we made a good meal of it. The little girls and also the grown young men had long braids of black hair at the back of the head, and the youth had two of this front braids round his chin.

Leaving the tents we ascended some more low hills and in half an hour came down into the valley in which are situated the wells of Mabra. This at certain season is a great central Wahabee camping ground. There are upward of a hundred wells, all within a space of four hundred yards square. Only a few were in good repair, and one seemed sweeter than the others (which are all brackish) was the common resort. When the Bedouins are here in numbers they clear the adjacent wells. The wells are dug some three or four fathoms through the sandstone rock. The wells are said to be of very ancient date. Was this a point of convergence on the route from Kuwait across Arabia in ancient days?

Standing at the wells the route for <sup>Majmaah</sup> Muzna leads across the sandstone hills South West by West. The road to Riyadh direct leads up at once over some broken ground in a direction of South and by West. I think South South West are the traces of a small hill fort. They say it is very

24  
Water  
at the  
bathing  
place

From 4 to 8 M. to 5 P. M. of 18 hours including a halt at the Mabra wells where our camels and some camels for the first time were kept. It is a fine fair ground. The wells are said to be of very ancient date. Was this a point of convergence on the route from Kuwait across Arabia in ancient days?

From 6 to 8 M. to 5 P. M. of 18 hours including a halt at the Mabra wells where our camels and some camels for the first time were kept. It is a fine fair ground. The wells are said to be of very ancient date. Was this a point of convergence on the route from Kuwait across Arabia in ancient days?





Date	From	To	Hours	General Direction	Remarks
					<p>old. It does not so appear to me. I picked up some old crabs about it. From this point the Samman becomes more open, the hills being less compact, the valleys broader and flatter lying generally in winding fashion North and South. The side hills lowish flat topped with frequent brick colored ribbons near their bases; and in some instances where the hills are conical the summits of the cones are brick color. We followed one of these long valleys in a Southwesterly direction until sunset when we halted with the rising ground which will take us out of the valley just in front of us.</p> <p>I picked a good many wild flowers, wild parsley, &amp;c. The country brushwood of the country seems a wild myrtle. The guide picked me a plant with a bulb. We peeled off the rind of the bulb and the inside both in view and taste reminded me of a Brazil nut. There is a quantity of sour sorrel which they say was imported into Naga from Egypt by Koorshed Pasha, and is now commonly eaten by the Bedouins. The camels came on a little faster today as they browsed less while walking, the ground being frequently quite barren and glaring; and even where sprinkled with grass and brushwood less fully so than in former marches. I observe a camel will browse as he walks and still make his three miles an hour.</p> <p>The guide described the ruins of the Fort at Hajj as being a mile or more in</p>



(4) 5

Ninth The And Hills en route to Mecca are occupied by the Khairtan Tribe, who possess good horses and are subject to the Arabs.

Tenth Bally is from 5 to 6 days from Riyadh. If you go to Bally via Shigri it is 7 days. From Bally to Kuwait is 12 days. The pilgrim route from Bussah passes near Zobair, Khurah and so to Bally. It leaves Riyadh to the south.

Our halting ground last evening was Sidiu Samman. Yesterday <sup>the</sup> country opened out into plains and the hills gradually diminished in height until they sank into gentle undulations of sandstone and sandstone flaps. — For the last half hour, that is on leaving Samman you approach the first range of the sand hills of the Dehna over a gentle plain of hard pebbly ground, on the further edge of which the sand hills rise much as they would (and with quite as much distinctness of outline) along the sea beach. The sand ridge is low, say 70 to 80 or 90 feet, and sprinkled with vegetation which looks much fresher than that we have passed in Samman. Indeed the strip of Samman seems to have little or no rain this year. Looking forward from any camping ground I can see another plain and in the distance a second ridge of sand hills. The ridge I am now on is no more than a few hundreds of yards wide. So far as I can judge the general direction of the ridge when I am crossing it is North West and by West and South East and by East.

26 From the From a further first after point in ridge to 6 M. Samman about 10 to 5 Hills and M. or Dehna 10 hours 7 half baggage baggage continues by was- ing as usual

Page 100  
 Date: July 26. 1855  
 Longitude: 45. 5. 38. 5. — 45. 26. 30

to small hills. Meet for a last distance. (to be met by Mecca with occasional variations)





Date	From	To	Hours	General Direction	Remarks.	(5)
					<p>After about four hours ascending this morning I came to a great circular fissure in the rock and about 20 feet down there was a sort of basin and then a lower circular fissure for 30 or more feet down. The diameter of the upper fissure may be 35 feet or so. I cannot determine whether the hollow is natural or wholly, or in part artificial. It looks, however, artificial. Its sides are throughout solid rock. One of my guides descended to the basin by the aid of a rope and then re-descended the lower well by the same aid. He found no water however. A few miles further on we found a little water by digging in a sandy depression. It was with difficulty they collected two khatful. But even this is something as we have a reach of five days without water.</p> <p>Yesterday my <del>Siddick</del> guide had a narrow escape with his life. He had gone ahead for half a mile with the head camel man to buy me a milch camel from some Bedouins. When they turned out to be Bedouins from Wady Dowasir with whom the Siddicks are at blood feud. The camel man retreated first, and then the guide, watching his moment, bolted too before the Bedouins could seize him. He came back trembling from head to foot, and in the evening there was a general gratulation to him. It seems his people killed 75 of Dowasir people last year.</p> <p>Gather from conversations today</p>	(5)



(5)

First - That there is an outcast tribe towards Yamamah who have a religion of their own. They are <sup>Awazem</sup> ~~Awazem~~ <sup>Awazem</sup>. The Mahommedans designate both them and ~~believe~~ outcast to in that they have no Chiefs or Tribal organization or recognition.

Second - It seems that the real state of the question as between the Imam and Muscat is that the former wishes to increase the tribute money from 12 to 40,000 Dollars. The Deputy at Bussrah is put forward as the aggressor but the Imam himself is at the bottom of the matter.

Third - Before the Ben Saud Family came into power Central Arabia was partitioned among numerous independent small Chiefs.

Fourth - Down to within three or four years ago Pilgrims passing through Kud paid black mail to the several Chiefs through whose grounds they moved. They now contract, that is the Persians and Pilgrims not being Arabs, for a lump sum of 72 Dollars which is paid to the Imam, and of which he gives to the Sherif of Mecca Dollars twenty; and to the Chiefs of Tribes who are on the road to Mecca Dollars twelve. The number of Pilgrims passing annually is roughly estimated -

Via Bussrah	18,000
Via Kowait	2,000
Via Lahsa	30,000
Via the N. or from Damascus	150,000





Date	From	To	Hours	General Direction	Remarks	
Left Blank					Fifth- The Succer is said to receive money Revenue from his subordinates as follows, in camel loads of 6,000 Dollars per camel:-	④
					From El Ahsa	80,000
					The people of Oman in the interior or many from Ras-ul-Kud to the Maritime Arabs of the Gulf	45,000
					The Maritime Arabs	12,000
					Muscat	12,000
					Bahrein	6,000
					Khutiffe	60,000
					Bedouin Tribes of Negd	573,000
					Other Districts of Negd	90,000
					He receives also one sheep in 50 and one camel in 100. From many Tribes, possessing good horses he receives presents of horses; for instance from Subul Shumular he receives annually 18 horses being the number which he gets. From Hummar, however, is not called Tribute but a present Equal to from El Ahsa he gets also presents of fine Abbas and other manufactures. He gives his retainers and dependents sent to El Ahsa or Khutiffe an order for such and such a quantity of dates.	



Date	From	To	Hours	General Direction	Remarks	⑥
1865	From	To	4 after 10	South	The first ridge of sand was some 50 or 60 feet high and a few hundred feet	
26 <sup>th</sup>	the	ridge	middle to 3	at an East	ends broad. The plain between this ridge and the second ridge occupied	
27 <sup>th</sup>	ridge	middle to 3	at an East	ends broad	us 2 1/2 hours in crossing, and I estimate its breadth at 7 miles. The second	
	end of the	P.M.	South		ridge occupied about one hour and 1/2 in crossing; the second plain half an hour.	
	hills in plain				The third ridge one hour 10 minutes; the third plain one hour. The fourth	
	Delma between				ridge one hour; we were crossing the fourth plain when the dysentery from	
	the				which I have been suffering for two or three days became so painful that	
	fourth				I could no longer bear the camels' jolting and ordered a halt at 3 P.M.	
	5th				Some of the ridges of sand we have yet crossed are of my altitude. It seems	
	ridge of				to me that the general character of the country is that which I described	
	sand				immediately after leaving Kuwait, namely a generally plain country with	
					a series of slight undulations at intervals and have a common direction.	
					Only the Delma is a higher plateau than that near Kuwait; and the sand	
					has drifted over it collecting in deeper and broader masses where it met with	
					the obstruction of the undulations and lying in thick sands over the unheaving	
					plains. The soil indeed shows itself frequently in these plains in patches of	
					lightish looking clay, or in patches strewn with small pebbles and the debris	
					of sandstone. The flora on the sandhills seems different from that of the	





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Sixth - The names of the Tribes and their several numbers of grown men is stated and estimated as per List.

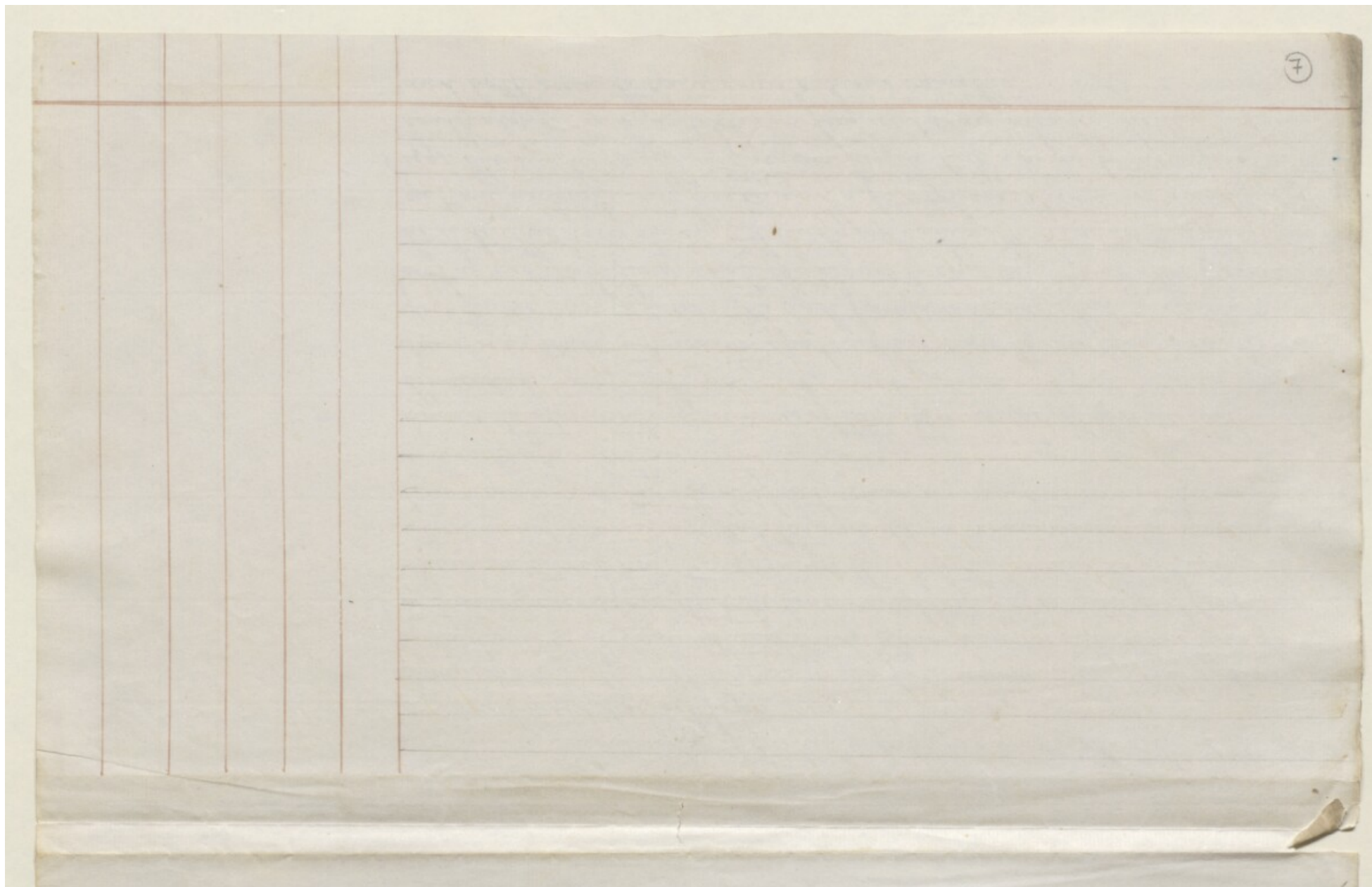
They, Arabs, have no poll tax, hence it is not easy to give their census. They do not count women and children.

Seventh - The Amir's factotum is one Maboor. His father was a Khashy slave of the Amir's father. The latter eventually bestowed on him one of his Georgian wives. Maboor is the issue.

Concubinage is not approved in Nujd. A man may have four wives at one and the same time, and may divorce at pleasure! But the woman for the time must be his wife and not concubine.

They do not allow of the son of an Arab by an African receiving an Arab wife and so in future generations purifying his breed back to an Arab. This would be allowed on the coast.

Eighth - The law of inheritance is that of the Mussulmans in general. A man derives not more than half of his property. The Priest appropriates one third. A widow without children gets her fourth as usual, with children, her eighth.







Summan. I have today plucked a few specimens. The color of the sand is light red or reddish orange.  
Immediately after battling we had a false alarm. The party approaching turned out to be some men of Wadi Dowapir. We were too strong for them so they were civil; but the Soobeah owned that if it were not for fear of the Amir he would kill the fellows. My Interpreter tried to get some information about Dowapir. But they would not even return the salaam; and told him to pray to the prophet, which is a hint to turn the conversation and not ask questions.  
I find that one of my men is of the Spear Tribe, of the mountains towards Hodeidah.  
One of our Arabs, a Kowaiter, shot another hare today; this is his third or fourth. He always fires with ball from a long barrelled matched lock; and has not as yet missed one shot. He seems to consider it a matter of course that he hits. The hares are small but good eating. We have seen little game as yet; one antelope - our hares - and a few sobara. I have got also a few sobara eggs. The snakes are plentiful; our people kill a dozen or more daily as they walk along. The lizards also are frequent as are also the beetles in places; and both seem to have some curious varieties.